

**AMENDMENTS****Claim Amendment Summary****Claims pending:**

- At time of the Office Action: Claims 1-70.
- After this Response: 1-70.

**Cancelled claims: none.****Amended claims: none.****New claims: none.****In the Claims****Pending claims are listed as follows:**

1. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An email filtering method comprising:

defining at least one heuristic that determines whether an incoming email message likely constitutes unsolicited commercial email by considering an established pattern that such unsolicited commercial email typically exhibits when it is sent;

applying said at least one heuristic to at least one email message that is received by a web server that comprises part of a web-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages; and

1 redirecting said at least one email message if application of said at least one  
2 heuristic indicates that said at least one email message likely constitutes  
3 unsolicited commercial email,

4 wherein said redirecting comprises placing a copy of the email message at a  
5 location not dedicated to storage of just one particular user's email.

6  
7 2. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said  
8 redirecting comprises placing a copy of the email message at a single location  
9 from which it can be accessed by more than one intended recipient of the email  
10 message.

11  
12 3. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said  
13 defining comprises defining a plurality of heuristics that are independent of the  
14 message conveyed by any of the content contained in an email message.

15  
16 4. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said  
17 at least one heuristic has at least one parameter that can be adjusted, and further  
18 comprising adjusting said at least one parameter to vary the pattern that is  
19 considered.

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21 5. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said  
22 at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the number of specified  
23 recipient addresses of the email message.

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1           6.     **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 5, wherein the  
2 pattern is associated with the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

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4           7.     **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said  
5 at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the size of an email  
6 message.

7  
8           8.     **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said  
9 at least one heuristic considers patterns associated with the number of specified  
10 recipient addresses of the email message and the size of the email message.

11  
12           9.     **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1 further  
13 comprising after said redirecting, notifying at least one intended recipient that an  
14 email message intended for them has been redirected.

15  
16           10.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said  
17 redirecting comprising redirecting said at least one email message to a location  
18 that can be shared by a plurality of intended recipients for reading said email  
19 message, and further comprising after said redirecting, notifying intended  
20 recipients of the email message that an email message intended for them has been  
21 redirected to said location.

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23           11.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 10, wherein said  
24 redirecting comprises storing only one copy of the email message.

25

1           12.   **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)**   An email filtering method  
2 comprising:

3           receiving an email message at an email server that maintains inboxes for  
4 individual recipients, wherein the email message is addressed to a plurality of  
5 recipients, the email server comprising part of an Internet-based email system in  
6 which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email  
7 environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages;

8           calculating a score for the email message at the server location based upon  
9 at least one of (a) the size of the email message, and (b) the number of specified  
10 recipient addresses;

11           comparing the score with a threshold value that defines a likelihood of  
12 whether an email message constitutes an unwanted email message;

13           responsive to the email message exceeding the threshold value, placing a  
14 copy of the email message at a first location other than an individual storage  
15 location dedicated to an individual intended recipient of the email message; and

16           sending a notification to the intended recipients that a copy of an email  
17 message that was intended for them has been placed at the first location.

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19           13.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein the  
20 threshold value is determined independent of the message conveyed by any of the  
21 text that is contained in any part of the email message.

22  
23           14.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein the  
24 score is based upon both the size of the email message and the number of specified  
25 recipient addresses.

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2 15. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said  
3 first location is a storage location that is managed by the email server.  
4

5 16. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said  
6 threshold value is based upon the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.  
7

8 17. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said  
9 sending of the notification comprises placing a pointer in an email folder of each  
10 recipient of the email message.  
11

12 18. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 12 further  
13 comprising responsive to a request from a recipient, making a recipient copy of the  
14 email message and placing the recipient copy at a dedicated recipient storage  
15 location.  
16

17 19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer program stored on  
18 one or more computer readable media for processing email, the program  
19 comprising the following steps:

20 receiving an email message at a server location, the email message being  
21 addressed to a plurality of recipients, the server location comprising one or more  
22 servers that comprise part of an Internet-based email system in which, for at least  
23 some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated by  
24 the system through use of HTML or web pages that are sent via the Internet to  
25

1 client devices and used by a browser executing on a client device to render the  
2 user interface email environment;

3 placing only one copy of the email message at a first storage location that is  
4 not a dedicated storage location for just one of the intended recipients; and

5 notifying each of the intended recipients that an email message intended for  
6 them has been placed at the first location.

7  
8 20. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 19, wherein the first storage  
9 location is a storage location that is managed by a server associated with the server  
10 location.

11  
12 21. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 19, wherein the first storage  
13 location is a storage location that is managed by a server associated with the server  
14 location, and is accessible to any of the intended recipients.

15  
16 22. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 19, wherein said notifying  
17 comprises creating a pointer to the first location, and placing the pointer at a  
18 plurality of second locations each of which being dedicated to a different one of  
19 the intended recipients, wherein individual recipients can use the pointer to access  
20 the email message at the first storage location.

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22 23. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 19 further comprising prior to  
23 said placing:  
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1 defining a profile of unwanted email messages based upon at least one of:  
2 the size of an email message, the number of specified recipient addresses, and the  
3 number of invalid specified recipient addresses;

4 determining whether an email message meets the profile; and  
5 wherein said placing and said notifying takes place only if the email  
6 message meets the profile.

7  
8 24. (ORIGINAL) A programmed email server that contains computer-  
9 readable instructions which, when executed by the email server, perform the  
10 following steps:

11 determining whether an email message that is received by the email server  
12 likely constitutes an unwanted email message, the email server comprising part of  
13 a web-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client  
14 user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages  
15 that are sent to client devices; and

16 if the email message likely constitutes an unwanted email message:  
17 storing a copy of the email message at a first storage location rather than  
18 individual storage locations that are dedicated to individual intended recipients of  
19 the email message; and

20 notifying intended recipients of the email message that an email message  
21 addressed to them has been received by the server.

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23 25. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining  
24 takes place without considering the message conveyed by any content of the  
25 sender's address field, the subject field, or the message field.

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2 26. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 24 further comprising enabling  
3 intended recipients, if they so desire, to read the email message at the first storage  
4 location.

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6 27. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 26, wherein said enabling  
7 comprises doing so without making any copies of the copy of the email message at  
8 the first storage location.

9  
10 28. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 26 further comprising receiving  
11 instructions from an intended recipient that a copy of the email message be made  
12 specifically for them, and responsive thereto, making a copy of the email message,  
13 and storing said copy at a recipient-specific location.

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15 29. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining  
16 takes place by considering the size of the email message.

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18 30. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining  
19 takes place by considering the number of specified recipient addresses of the email  
20 message.

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22 31. (ORIGINAL) The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining  
23 takes place by considering the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.  
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1           32.   **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining  
2 takes place by defining a plurality of heuristics that establish a profile of unwanted  
3 email messages, wherein the profile considers factors that are independent of any  
4 message conveyed by an email message's content, and applying the plurality of  
5 heuristics to an email message.

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7           33.   **(ORIGINAL)** The steps of claim 32, wherein the heuristics are  
8 adjustable.

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10          34.   **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An email screening method  
11 comprising:

12           developing a profile of unsolicited commercial email based upon the size of  
13 an email message and the number of specified recipient addresses of the email  
14 message;

15           configuring a mail server that is responsible for storing and distributing  
16 email messages to a plurality of clients with a filter processor that is programmed  
17 to evaluate email messages that are received in light of the developed profile, the  
18 mail server comprising part of a web-based email system in which, for at least  
19 some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated  
20 through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to client devices;

21           evaluating email messages with the filter processor and determining  
22 whether the email messages fit the developed profile; and

23           if an email message fits the developed profile, initiating a remedial measure  
24 that ensures that the mail server does not make as many copies of the email  
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1 message as there are specified recipient addresses, yet still allows the email  
2 message to be accessible to at least one recipient.

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4 35. (ORIGINAL) The email screening method of claim 34, wherein  
5 said remedial measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server  
6 storage location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the  
7 specified recipient addresses.

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9 36. (ORIGINAL) The email screening method of claim 34, wherein  
10 said remedial measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server  
11 storage location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the  
12 specified recipient addresses, and notifying intended recipients that an email  
13 message intended for them has been stored at the server storage location.

14  
15 37. (ORIGINAL) The email screening method of claim 34, wherein  
16 said remedial measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server  
17 storage location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the  
18 specified recipient addresses, and notifying intended recipients that an email  
19 message intended for them has been stored at the server storage location by  
20 placing a pointer in a designated email folder for the intended recipients.

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22 38. (ORIGINAL) The email screening method of claim 37 further  
23 comprising, for each recipient who so desires, reading the email message from the  
24 server storage location.

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1           39.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 37 further  
2 comprising, for each recipient who so desires, copying the email message from the  
3 server storage location to a recipient-location.

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5           40.   **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An email delivery method  
6 comprising:

7               establishing a bulk email folder in which bulk email is to be stored;

8               configuring an email server to receive email messages and deliver them  
9 either to multiple server storage locations that are dedicated to storing email  
10 messages for respective recipients or to a single, shared location that can be shared  
11 by a plurality of the recipients, the email server comprising part of an email  
12 system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email  
13 environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to  
14 client devices;

15               receiving an email message;

16               comparing an address for the sender of the email message with a recipient's  
17 list of approved senders; and

18               delivering the email message to the single, shared location if: (a) the email  
19 message is not directly addressed to a recipient that is serviced by the server, and  
20 (b) the sender's address does not appear in the recipient's list of approved senders.

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22           41.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email delivery method of claim 40 further  
23 comprising maintaining the email message at the single, shared location only for a  
24 determinable amount of time.

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1           42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An email screening method  
2 comprising:

3           developing a profile of unwanted email messages based upon whether an  
4 email message is similar in content to another email message;

5           configuring a mail server that is responsible for storing email messages for  
6 a plurality of clients with a filter processor that is programmed to evaluate email  
7 messages that are received in light of the developed profile, the mail server  
8 comprising part of an email system in which, for at least some users of the system,  
9 a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or  
10 web pages that are sent to client devices;

11           evaluating email messages with the filter processor and determining  
12 whether the email message fits the developed profile; and

13           if the email message fits the developed profile, placing a copy of the email  
14 message in a first location and, rather than placing multiple copies of the email  
15 message in multiple dedicated client storage locations, notifying the multiple  
16 clients that an email message addressed to them has been received so that the  
17 clients can read the email message if they so desire.

18  
19           43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An email screening method  
20 comprising:

21           defining an index having values that are assigned to various degrees of  
22 desirability that an email message can have, wherein the degrees of desirability  
23 extend from a low degree of desirability to a high degree of desirability;

24

25

1 associating a plurality of parameters having parameter values with the  
2 various degrees of desirability, wherein at least some of the parameters do not  
3 depend on any message that is conveyed by any content of an email message;

4 establishing a user interface through which a user can adjust either (a)  
5 individual parameter values that, in turn, establish a degree of desirability, or (b)  
6 index values that themselves establish a degree of desirability that email messages  
7 must have in order to be saved to dedicated user storage locations; and

8 evaluating, using a computing device comprising part of an email system in  
9 which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email  
10 environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to  
11 client devices, incoming email messages against the index value that is defined by  
12 the user.

13  
14 44. (ORIGINAL) The email screening method of claim 43, wherein the  
15 parameter values are adjustable.

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17 45. (ORIGINAL) The email screening method of claim 43, wherein  
18 one of the parameters is associated with the number of specified recipient  
19 addresses.

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21 46. (ORIGINAL) The email screening method of claim 43, wherein  
22 one of the parameters is associated with a percentage of invalid specified recipient  
23 addresses.

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1           47.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email screening method of claim 43, wherein  
2 one of the parameters is associated with the size of an email message.

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4           48.    **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** An email server system  
5 comprising:

6               a user storage database configured to store user information including email  
7 messages that are intended for individual users; and

8               a server configured to receive email messages that are intended for various  
9 users and store the email messages in dedicated user storage locations within the  
10 user storage database;

11               wherein the server is further configured to screen email messages based  
12 upon a set of heuristics that determine whether an email message likely constitutes  
13 an unwanted email message, the server further being configured to place a single  
14 copy of an email message in a storage location that is not a dedicated user storage  
15 location if it is determined by screening the email message that it likely constitutes  
16 an unwanted email message, said system comprising an Internet-based system that  
17 is configured to send email messages to users in a format in which a user's  
18 browser application processes the email messages and provides a user interface for  
19 a user to view the email messages.

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21           49.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set  
22 of heuristics considers the size of an email message.

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1           50.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set  
2 of heuristics considers the number of specified user addresses that are specified by  
3 an email message.

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5           51.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set  
6 of heuristics considers the number of invalid specified user addresses that are  
7 specified by an email message.

8  
9           52.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email server system of claim 48, wherein the  
10 server is further configured to place a pointer to the storage location in which the  
11 single copy of the email message is placed, in each dedicated user storage location  
12 that corresponds to a valid specified user address contained in the email message.

13  
14           53.   **(ORIGINAL)** An email filtering method comprising:  
15 defining at least one heuristic that determines whether an incoming email  
16 message likely constitutes unsolicited commercial email by considering an  
17 established pattern that such unsolicited commercial email typically exhibits when  
18 it is sent;

19           applying said at least one heuristic to at least one email message; and  
20           redirecting said at least one email message if application of said at least one  
21 heuristic indicates that said at least one email message likely constitutes  
22 unsolicited commercial email, wherein said redirecting comprises placing a copy  
23 of the email message at a location not dedicated to storage of just one particular  
24 user's email.  
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1           54.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
2    redirecting comprises placing a copy of the email message at a single location  
3    from which it can be accessed by more than one intended recipient of the email  
4    message.

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6           55.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
7    defining comprises defining a plurality of heuristics that are independent of the  
8    message conveyed by any of the content contained in an email message.

9  
10          56.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
11   at least one heuristic has at least one parameter that can be adjusted, and further  
12   comprising adjusting said at least one parameter to vary the pattern that is  
13   considered.

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15          57.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
16   at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the number of specified  
17   recipient addresses of the email message.

18  
19          58.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein the  
20   pattern is associated with the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

21  
22          59.    **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
23   at least one heuristic considers a pattern associated with the size of an email  
24   message.

25



1           60.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
2 at least one heuristic considers patterns associated with the number of specified  
3 recipient addresses of the email message and the size of the email message.

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5           61.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, further  
6 comprising after said redirecting, notifying at least one intended recipient that an  
7 email message intended for them has been redirected.

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9           62.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
10 redirecting comprising redirecting said at least one email message to a location  
11 that can be shared by a plurality of intended recipients for reading said email  
12 message, and further comprising after said redirecting, notifying intended  
13 recipients of the email message that an email message intended for them has been  
14 redirected to said location.

15  
16           63.   **(ORIGINAL)** The email filtering method of claim 53, wherein said  
17 redirecting comprises storing only one copy of the email message.

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19           64.   **(ORIGINAL)** An email filtering method comprising:  
20 receiving an email message at an email server that maintains inboxes for  
21 individual recipients;  
22 calculating a score for the email message at the server location based upon  
23 at least one of (a) the size of the email message, and (b) the number of specified  
24 recipient addresses;  
25

1 comparing the score with a threshold value that defines a likelihood of  
2 whether an email message constitutes an unwanted email message;

3 responsive to the email message exceeding the threshold value, placing a  
4 copy of the email message at a first location other than an individual storage  
5 location dedicated to an individual intended recipient of the email message; and

6 sending a notification to the intended recipients that a copy of an email  
7 message that was intended for them has been placed at the first location.

8  
9 65. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein the  
10 threshold value is determined independent of the message conveyed by any of the  
11 text that is contained in any part of the email message.

12  
13 66. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein the  
14 score is based upon both the size of the email message and the number of specified  
15 recipient addresses.

16  
17 67. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein said  
18 first location is a storage location that is managed by the email server.

19  
20 68. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein said  
21 threshold value is based upon the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

22  
23 69. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 64, wherein said  
24 sending of the notification comprises placing a pointer in an email folder of each  
25 recipient of the email message.

1  
2 70. (ORIGINAL) The email filtering method of claim 64 further  
3 comprising responsive to a request from a recipient, making a recipient copy of the  
4 email message and placing the recipient copy at a dedicated recipient storage  
5 location.  
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